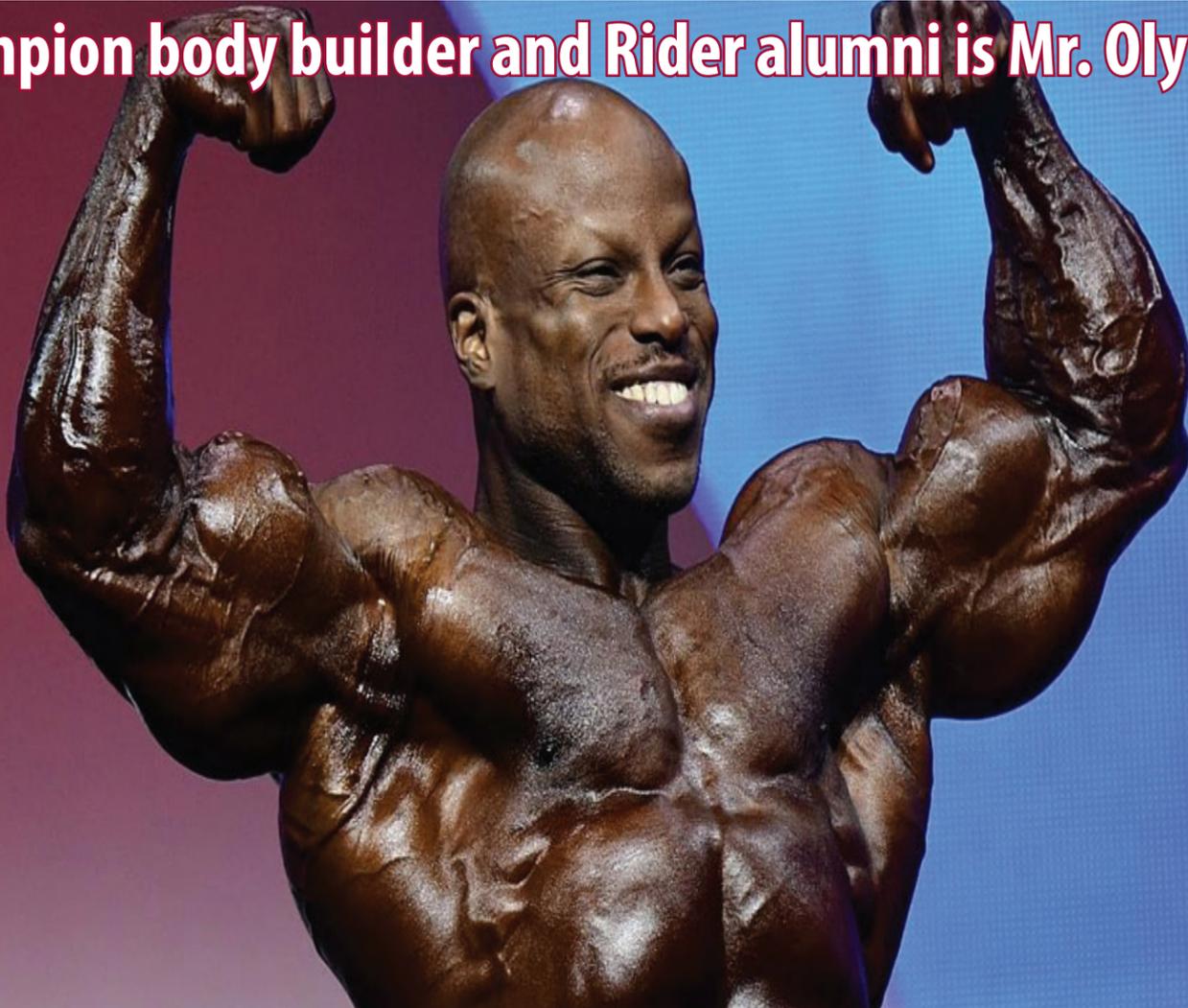


## Champion body builder and Rider alumni is Mr. Olympia



Courtesy of Shaun Clarida

SEE RIDER PAGE 5

From freshman walk-on wrestler to full-time bodybuilder, Shaun Clarida has trained long and hard to win the Mr. Olympia title.

## Student leadership stonewalled in fight for voting rights on academic policy

By Stephen Neukam

**S**TUDENT leadership is facing building resistance to its push to secure student voting rights in committees that control academic governance at the university, with both faculty and administration having little appetite for the change.

For months, Student Government Association (SGA) President Dylan Erdelyi, a senior musical theater major, has geared up to advance the policy, gaining little traction in the process.

Erdelyi argues that students hold a sufficient stake in the affairs of their education and that they deserve actual influence in the voting process, not just a space for feedback.

But opposition to granting students voting rights — a rare unified front of faculty leadership and the administration — leaves Erdelyi and his allies to lower expectations and search for options that would lead to incremental improvements.

Academic governance at Rider is controlled through the University Academic Policy Committee (UAPC) and smaller academic policy committees at the college level. The arrangement is set up in the bargaining agreement between the administration and faculty union, which leaves the lone student representative on each APC committee with no voting power.

The committees govern all aspects of academic affairs at the university — right down to what is taught in a curriculum.

“So much of our academic policy is outlined in [the bargaining] agreement,” said Erdelyi. “We do not have a system of shared governance between students, administration and faculty.”

Cooperation and progress have been sparse, according to Erdelyi. He said that meetings with both the administration and faculty union have been hard to come by, with some union leaders refusing to respond to emails about the policy.

Initial support for student voting rights at the highest levels of the administration has fizzled out, according to Erdelyi. While some voiced encouragement for the move, he said finding any positive reception recently has been difficult.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs DonnaJean Fredeen said that she “always support[s] students taking agency over issues impacting them,” but declined to comment on student leadership’s campaign for voting rights, deferring to the bargaining agreement between the university and faculty.



Courtesy of Dylan Erdelyi

Erdelyi has found little support for his push for student voting rights from faculty and administration.

“Any changes to that process can only be accomplished through negotiations with the [American Association of University Professors] AAUP,” said Fredeen.

Erdelyi said that Fredeen was once an advocate for student voting rights when the idea was presented in 2017.

“I think now that we have put some pressure on the issue, she is less than an advocate,” said Erdelyi. “When it was just presented as a piece of legislation in 2017 and there wasn’t any motion on it, many in the know kind of just dismissed that as ‘that’s kind of cute.’ Now it’s more of a threat or reality.”

Fredeen did not clarify if she had been in support of the measure in the past.

Rider’s AAUP President Arthur Taylor said that the executive committee of the union is aware of the proposal

SEE ADMINISTRATION PAGE 2

INSIDE



### SENIOR LEADERSHIP

*Dajia Moses has thrived in a leadership role in her senior season.*

PAGE 10 AND 11

### WINTER STORM URI

*Texas, along with other states, has experienced the severe effects of devastating winter storm.*

PAGE 8



### GHOSTS

*Paranormal investigator Chris Fleming talks to Rider students about his experiences with the supernatural.*

PAGE 5

## SECURITY BRIEFS

BY STEPHEN NEUKAM

### Not a Hacker

Don't forget to log out. On Feb. 17 at 11:39 a.m., Public Safety received an email from a Rider administrator indicating that there were two suspicious log in attempts of the university's Instagram account. The issue was investigated by the Office of Information Technology and it was determined that a student who was given access to the account, to promote an event they were hosting, forgot to disconnect their phone from the Instagram account.

### Leave Me Alone

Know the boundaries. On Feb. 20 at 1:54 p.m., Public Safety was contacted by a non-Rider student that alleged that a Rider student was continuously harassing him by sending text messages and had seen the student around his off-campus residence. Public Safety spoke to both parties and advised the non-Rider student to contact the police for further action. The Rider student was referred to the Office of Community Standards.

### Smoked Out

Cigar puffing. On Feb. 19 at 11:48 p.m., Public Safety responded to a fire alarm activation in Beckett Village. Officers located the room where the alarm was sounding and knocked on the door. When no one answered, officers unlocked the room and found it in a smokey condition, with part of a burning cigar sitting in a cup full of ashes. The student who occupies the room was referred to the Office of Community Standards.

— Information provided by Public Safety Lt. Matthew Babcock

## Administration and faculty have little appetite for academic governance reforms

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

but reiterated that the voting system is part of the bargaining agreement.

With seven voting members on the committees — four from the faculty and three from the administration — Erdelyi is pushing for just one student vote.

Union and administrative sources have stressed the importance of experience in academic governance, a refrain that Erdelyi believes is condescending.

"I am certainly not here to discount anybody's expertise," said Erdelyi. "There's another level that has nothing to do with expertise."

Erdelyi explained that students are not trying to change the curriculum of the courses they take. Instead, they want to add another level of insight — the student experience — to the decision making process.

With little indication that either side is willing to move forward with student voting rights, Erdelyi is looking for incremental ways to move students toward that goal. In general, he is trying to break down the barriers that have gatekept students from understanding academic governance.

Erdelyi said that students should be given an opportunity to learn and participate in the academic policy process. He also believes that student feedback should be solicited as a priority in decision making, rather than students having to push their way onto the meeting agendas.

Associate Professor Justin Burton, a supporter of the student voting push, agreed that students should be able to learn the policy process, an important step to voting rights.

"[J]uniors and seniors who want to understand academic governance and who want to learn how to parse and vet policy proposals should be able to gain a level of knowledge and proficiency that allows them to vote," said Burton. "Expertise seems an unreasonable standard that we don't even apply to faculty and administration. After all, a school's academic policy committee vets and votes on a wide swath of proposals related to disciplines outside some of the voters' areas of expertise, and the practice is to yield to others' expertise while asking questions that sharpen a proposal and identify its shortcomings."



Courtesy of Rider University

Academic governance is constructed in the faculty bargaining agreement.

Erdelyi's hope is to push the fight forward and make progress on his goals. With a clear view of the obstacles, he said "we are more than willing to work with faculty and administration to find other solutions."

## COVID-19 student cases on the rise in two-week surge

By Austin Ferguson

**A**FTER recording just one positive COVID-19 test in the week before Valentine's Day, Rider University has received a dozen positive tests in the following two weeks, including six in the last two days alone, the university's COVID-19 dashboard reported on Feb. 23.

The surge started with the week from Feb. 15 to Feb. 21, when Rider's COVID-19 dashboard reported six new positive cases. From Feb. 22 to Feb. 23 alone, another six cases were reported on the same dashboard, all amongst students.

The spread of positive cases is the same between the two weeks, with each period containing four positive cases among on-campus students and two cases among off-campus students.

The two-week total of 12 cases is the highest since the period from Jan. 25 to Feb. 7, where 13 cases were reported among students, nine of which were registered from Jan. 25 - Jan. 31.

Rider Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Planning and Secretary to the Board Debbie Stasolla foresaw the surge in cases with an increase in testing at the beginning of the semester.

"Because we are doing more testing, we're going to have more cases and close contacts," Stasolla said on Feb. 9. "That is the nature of the beast."

Rider completed 479 tests over the past two weeks, including 297 between Feb. 15 and Feb. 21, the highest single-week total of tests since the onset of required tests for students returning to campus.

Despite the surge in cases, this is the third straight week that has not had a Rider employee, on or off-campus, test positive for COVID-19. Not counting contracted employees who do not work directly for the university, it has been over a month since the last positive case of a Rider employee, which came from an off-campus employee in the last week of January. The last positive case from an on-campus



### COVID - 19 Counter

**Confirmed Cases**  
Last updated: Feb. 13, 2021

# 34

Cumulative total of laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 at Rider University (Since January 2021)

**COVID - 19 case reports to Rider University by month:**

| Month/Year    | Student Case Reports | Employee Case Reports |
|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| January 2021  | 10                   | 6                     |
| February 2021 | 17                   | 1                     |

Rider University reports its testing numbers and other coronavirus statistics each Tuesday and Friday at [rider.edu/dashboard](http://rider.edu/dashboard)

**ON CAMPUS STUDENT TESTING**

| Weeks  | Health Center | Surveillance Testing |
|--------|---------------|----------------------|
| Week 8 | 13            | 169                  |
| Week 7 | 3             | 294                  |
| Week 6 | 16            | 269                  |
| Week 5 | 3             | 157                  |
| Week 4 | 0             | 678                  |
| Week 3 | 1             | 366                  |
| Total  | 36            | 2172                 |

**STUDENT QUARANTINE**

| Weeks  | On Campus | Off Campus |
|--------|-----------|------------|
| Week 8 | 9         | 10         |
| Week 7 | 7         | 20         |
| Week 6 | 14        | 19         |
| Week 5 | 34        | 25         |
| Week 4 | 0         | 3          |
| Week 3 | 0         | 0          |
| Total  | 65        | 78         |

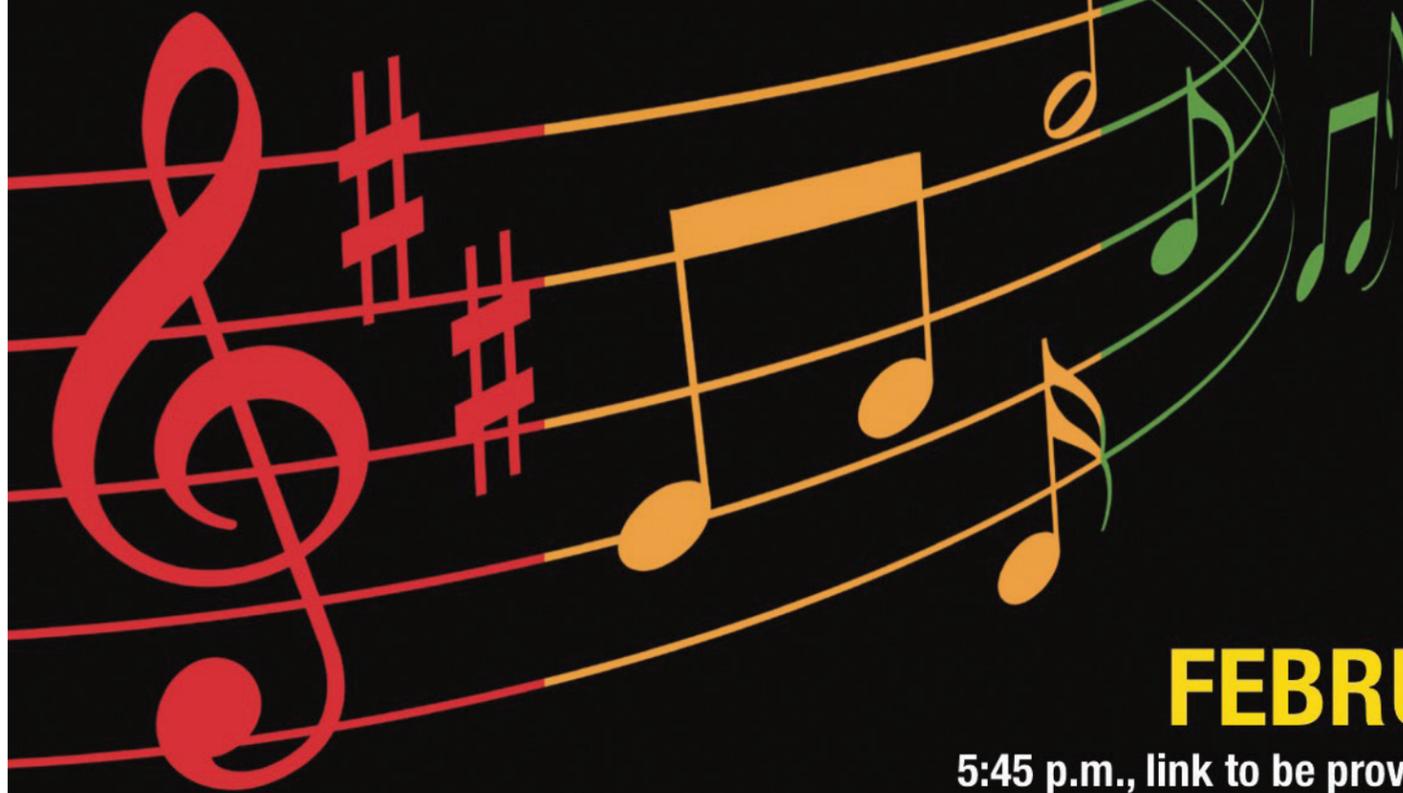
Six positive Rider cases of coronavirus were reported from Feb. 15 to Feb. 21

employee came between Jan. 11 to Jan. 17, according to the university dashboard.

Arianna Marino/The Rider News

ADVERTISEMENT

# GOSPEL FEST



**JOIN  
US!**

**FEBRUARY 28**

**5:45 p.m., link to be provided through email**

Unite with us for a virtual closing celebration of Black History Month through gospel song, dance and spoken word. Experience enormous joy and excitement as performers from Rider University and surrounding areas end Black History Month on a high note! This event is free and available to the public.

**FOR THE RIDER COMMUNITY:**

**Don't miss  
Soul Food Sunday!**

**4:30 p.m. , Daly Dining Hall**

Enjoy the culinary delights of the cultural contribution of "soul food" from early African-American generations that continue to satisfy our palates today! Please pick up your dinner at Daly Dining Hall.

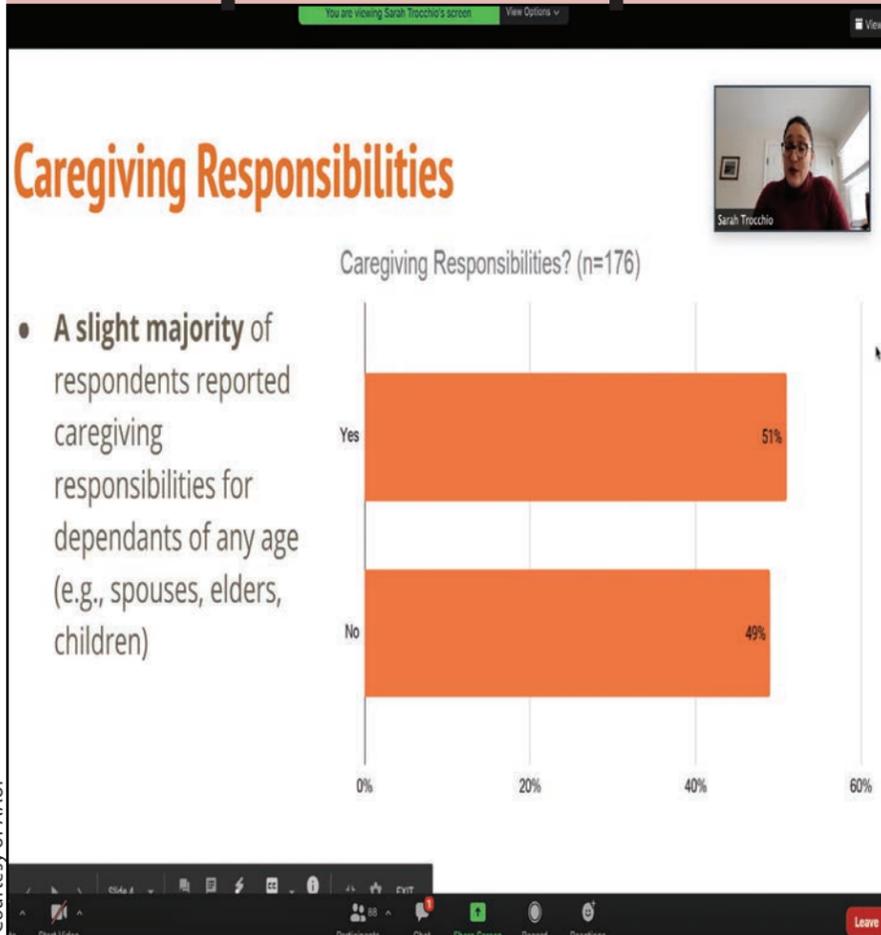
**RIDER.EDU/BLACK-HISTORY-MONTH**

CENTER FOR  
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION  
*Unity + Diversity = University*



**RIDER  
UNIVERSITY**

# Rider professors present caregiver survey to AAUP



Caregiving has become more complex in the era of COVID-19 and with that comes a new set of challenges for faculty with young children.

By Hailey Hensley

**T**HE ongoing pandemic has impacted every area of life for most people. One distinct area of life that has significantly challenged many people in the Rider community is juggling the responsibilities of parenthood with the responsibilities of being a faculty member.

On Feb. 2, members of the American Association of University Professors

(AAUP) were presented with a slideshow filled with data regarding a survey that had been conducted to gauge how faculty members were managing their responsibilities as parents and as educators simultaneously.

According to the data collected, 51% of Rider faculty members reported having caregiving responsibilities to dependents of varying ages.

Assistant professor of English Laurel Harris was one of the presenters for these findings. She described her own experiences as a parent of a small child.

“Being a caregiver and having a full-time job is always a challenging balancing act, but the COVID[-19] situation has exacerbated the struggle. At the same time classes went virtual last spring, my then three-year-old daughter’s home care shut down, and family members who had helped us in a pinch before were no longer available due to social distancing guidelines,” she said. “Though we are very lucky to have a two-income household, my spouse and I found ourselves struggling to do our jobs throughout the spring while caring for our daughter full time.”

Harris clarified that COVID-19 has made caregiving an especially complicated task, with school and daycare policies constantly changing while parent work schedules and other demands have not shifted in the slightest.

“Starting in the fall, we joined a child care share so I could teach remotely and keep up with course prep, grading, value responsibilities and some research. That said, balancing child care and work can still feel like much more of a scramble than usual,” Harris said. “Schools are always opening and closing, learners are in and out. I joined the child care share to have more consistency, and while we’ve avoided school closures it’s still been a messy and disorienting year.”

In the survey, respondents were asked what good requests could be made in negotiation to ease some of the burdens on faculty. The most popular response had 17% of respondents and stated that they would like additional tenure clock extensions, revised promotion and tenure criteria or short-term financial support.

Along with that, 80.4% of respondents answered that they felt caregiving should be seen as an important or top-priority issue for the AAUP to use in negotiations with the university.

Sarah Trocchio, assistant professor of sociology and criminology, discussed the gender disparities and sociological issues related to caregiving.

“I started my job at Rider in the fall of 2019, and as a sociologist, I’m well aware of the unique and gender-specific challenges that working mothers face in general, and in academia in particular,” Trocchio said. “Data conducted before COVID-19 consistently demonstrated wage disparities between women and men, as well as the unique barriers to promotion and lifetime earnings that mothers face compared to fathers. The COVID-19 pandemic has only made these challenges more pronounced, and I have serious concerns about what the future holds for other working moms like me.”

## Rider competition team takes top 10 in small business case competition

By Tori Pender

**A**LUMNI Jake Malek ‘20, Isaiah Jean-Baptiste ‘20 and Olivia Gillingham ‘19 were placed amongst the top 10 groups in the national Small Business Institute (SBI) Project of the Year Competition for their consulting project.

SBI has held competitions annually since 1974, and Rider students and alumni have competed in these competitions since 1998.

Rider has accumulated 37 top-10 national placements, including five national titles, seven second-place awards and six third-place awards.

Malek, Jean-Baptiste and Gillingham were partnered together in ENT 448 Seminar in Small Business Consulting, a class they took while at Rider. Associate Dean of the Norm Brodsky College of Business and Director of Rider’s SBI program Ron Cook advises one undergrad project each year to send to SBI’s competition. According to SBI’s website, the purpose of the program is for students “With guidance of university professors, [to] provide business consulting for actual companies.”

When describing the team, Cook said, “They were three outstanding entrepreneurship students who came together to provide a marketing plan for Fizzee Labs’s new educational curriculum.”

Fizzee Labs, an organization owned by Joe Hudicka ‘93, ‘00, his wife, Lora Hudicka, and their two teenage children, Joey and Heidi, was the company the team focused on. The group had to create a consulting plan that would foster creativity and innovation just as Fizzee Labs strives to do.

“The company currently [offers] numerous products and services, including board games ‘Launch’ and ‘Outta This World!’, educational workshops and speaking engagement,” Cook explained, “Their newest venture was an educational curriculum that was designed for students in the second through sixth grades.”

Malek explained, “The project took a full semester of work from the team of three students and ended with a presentation to the company and a 100-plus page report submission,”

According to Malek, students often learn through hypothetical situations.

“This was an amazing opportunity to put our learnings into action by helping a real-world company in their development process,” he said.

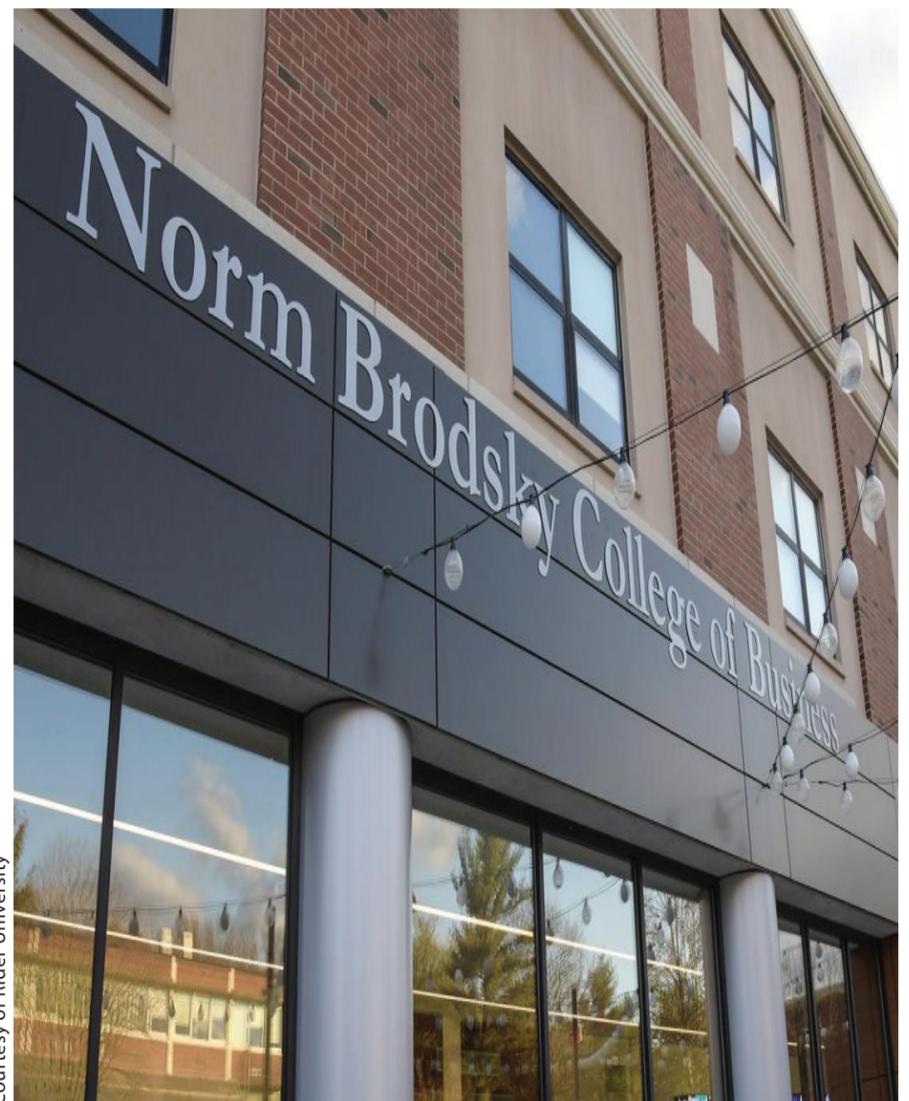
The report created by the team will be used by Fizzee Labs to further develop its company and expand its market.

“The hardest part was finding in-depth analysis related to their industry. Fizzee Labs is beginning to operate in a new niche within education so finding information or research related to that specific area was difficult,” said Malek.

Not only was the team focused on developing a plan for a unique market, but it was also up against multiple universities.

Cook explained, “Schools are allowed to submit two cases into the national competition, at different levels. In any given year, there could be hundreds of potential projects in this category.”

In the face of hundreds of competitors, Malek was not feeling very confident in their project.



Alumni Jake Malek ‘20 said that the team presented their project to the company as well as a 100-page report submission.

“When I heard we placed in the top 10, I felt very surprised. After receiving tough submission feedback from our advisor, Ron Cook, my expectations were low. But with a happy client and a top-10 placement, I am happy with the results,” said Malek.

# Rider alumnus Shaun Clarida crowned Mr. Olympia

By Christian McCarville

**T**HE story of Shaun Clarida is one of triumph and inspiration. He has overcome many obstacles and trained extensively for years to become a bodybuilding champion.

Clarida came to Rider in 2001, when he decided to try out for the Division I wrestling team. He was a walk-on for the team during his freshman year.

Very thankful for the opportunity to be a part of that team, Clarida expressed gratitude toward his former wrestling coaches, Gary Taylor and current Head Coach John Hangey.

“They were the ones that pushed me more to get into the gym,” said Clarida. “It’s very hard to walk on to a D1 program in any sport. They gave me the opportunity, they gave me the chance and I earned my spot on the team, so I am very grateful for them.”

Hangey proudly commented on Clarida’s success as a bodybuilder.

“Shaun came to Rider as a very undersized 118 pounder,” said Hangey. “That was the only thing about Shaun that was undersized, he had a tremendous work ethic and a fighting spirit that matched the other guys on the team.”

Clarida’s experiences working out in the Rider gym led to him encountering a bodybuilder from the local area. This bodybuilder, Tom Garruca, convinced Clarida to try out a bodybuilding show.

“He showed me all of his medals, his accolades and his videos and he persuaded me to do a show,” said Clarida. “He said it looked like I had a good physique to do a bodybuilding show.”

Taking Garruca’s advice, Clarida gave bodybuilding a shot and ended up enjoying it greatly.

“I did my first show in May of 2005 and absolutely fell in love with the sport, the whole process,” said Clarida. “Getting on stage, it was an absolute rush.”

Clarida soon began to take bodybuilding more seriously. He decided to quit wrestling to pursue bodybuilding full time.

This decision paid off, as Clarida has found great success in his bodybuilding career. His most notable accomplishment: winning the 2020 Mr. Olympia bodybuilding competition in the 212-pound weight class.

The Mr. Olympia competition is one of the largest fitness contests in the world. The title of Mr. Olympia is one that is highly sought after on an international level.

Clarida describes his experience of winning the Mr. Olympia title as an incredible moment in which all of his hard work paid off.

“I just completely lost it,” said Clarida. “I just fell to the floor and started crying. It was so emotional. All the years of doing this, the training, the dieting, the losing friends, the whole nine yards just all paid off. This is something I have absolutely

dreamed of and worked for and for that to finally happen, it was a surreal moment.”

Clarida also explained that he has a lot of supportive people in his corner that continue to motivate him and push him to success.

“I have a strong team,” said Clarida. “My girlfriend and I train together every day. I have two amazing coaches, one handles my nutrition and one handles my training. Everyone lends a hand in helping motivate me, push me and encourage me.”

With the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, Clarida did face several obstacles to his training. When the pandemic initially hit, Clarida had just begun his training for the Mr. Olympia competition. He had trouble finding a gym that would let him continue to work out.

A friend of Clarida’s was able to assist him with this, giving him the keys to a gym that he owned. From there, his training intensified.

“It was just me in the gym with my girlfriend training, nothing to distract us,” said Clarida.

In this environment free from distraction, Clarida put in the effort that would ultimately win him the title of Mr. Olympia.

“We couldn’t be more proud of Shaun and his accomplishments as a bodybuilder,” said Hangey. “He is living proof of having a dream, setting lofty goals and doing whatever it takes to make it happen. A true testament to his character.”

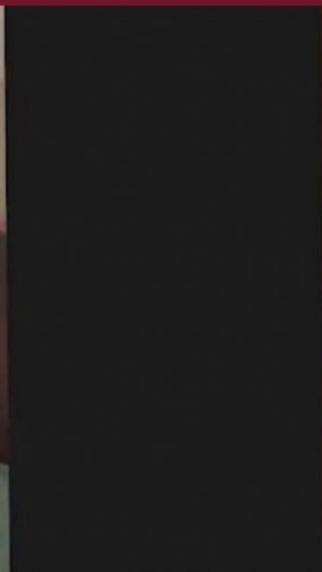
Clarida’s journey from a walk-on wrestler to a world bodybuilding champion is an incredible achievement that is sure to be celebrated by his fellow Rider Broncs.



Courtesy of @ShaunClarida

The Mr. Olympia championship is one of the most significant contests of fitness on a global level. For Clarida, winning this title was a dream come true.

WATCH CLARIDA'S FULL  
INTERVIEW AT  
THERIDERNEWS.COM!



The Rider News

# Students show off their pets for DECA fundraiser

By Sarah Siock

WITH the coronavirus pandemic still spreading across the globe, people are continuing to spend more time at home than ever before. While many are growing tired of lockdowns and the work-from-home lifestyle, peoples' pets are enjoying the constant care and attention they are receiving. Rider's chapter of Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) is encouraging students to show off the quality time they are spending with their furry friends throughout the pandemic with a pet photo contest.

The contest was created in collaboration with the Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) as a fundraiser where students pay \$1 to vote for their favorite pet. The donations will go to the nonprofit as well as DECA's funds to help the club attend the International Career Development Conference next year. DECA's mission is to prepare its members to enter into business careers after graduation.

Submissions and voting will take place digitally for the contest to follow coronavirus safety guidelines. Throughout February, students submitted a photo of their pet on a Google Form and DECA members posted the photos to their website. Submission entry closed on Feb. 23 with 12 students submitting photos. Now students can vote for their favorite pets through mobile payment apps. Voters simply send \$1 to DECA members and make the caption of their donation the name of the pet they would like to see win.

Those running the fundraiser hope it will bring joy to this stressful time. "I was researching possible virtual fundraisers when I came across the idea for a pet photo contest. I thought, 'there is nothing better than looking at cute dog photos.' Everyone is stressed with the pandemic and constantly being on Zoom. Now they can take a break from it all and scroll through the pet photos on our website," said junior accounting major and DECA member Sleyker Tarifa.

DECA members also spoke about the difficulties of fundraising during a pandemic.

Similar to many other Rider clubs, raising money through virtual events has proven to be a difficult task. Previously, the club relied on door-to-door fundraising, which is no longer possible. The pet photo contest is a way to involve the Rider community and raise funds in a socially distant fashion.

"Our events have been completely different this year. With the International Career Development Conference virtual this year we shifted the goals of our club. Now we focus on our members gaining knowledge in various areas by branching out and meeting with other clubs," said senior business administration major and DECA Events Coordinator Genevieve Santasieri. "We have partnered with the business analytics club and the communications department. Our events have gone from preparing for the conference to helping our members grow as individuals."

Santasieri added that while DECA is a business club, all majors are allowed to join. The club hopes the changes they have made during the pandemic will help them grow for years to come.

**PET PHOTO CONTEST**

Does your pet deserve more love and attention? Yes, they do!

Submit your pet in our first DECA Pet Photo Contest. In collaboration with PAWS, we will be donating a percentage of the proceeds to this non-profit organization. The rest of the proceeds will be used to help DECA members attend the International Career Development Conference next year.

PAWS is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving Philadelphia's homeless and at-risk pets. They are the city's largest rescue partner and provider of affordable, basic veterinary care for pet owners and rescue organizations that cannot otherwise access it.

**HOW TO SUBMIT PET**

- 1) Fill out the Google Form - Pet Photo Submission
- 2) Wait for a confirmation email
- 3) Please allow 48 hours for a confirmation
- 4) Check our website to confirm your pet is on our site. - DECA
- 5) Promote your pet
- 6) Last day to submit your pet: February 23rd, 2020

**HOW TO VOTE**

- 1) Go to our website - DECA
- 2) Check Fundraising initiatives
- 3) Submit payment: \$1.00 = 1 Vote
- 4) PayPal: 609-578-9399
- 5) Venmo: @David\_Brooks
- 6) CashApp: \$Riderzky
- 7) Zelle: 609-578-9399
- 8) ApplePay: 609-578-9399

**PRIZE**

The Winner will receive a Pet gift basket full, catered to the type of animal.

**HOW IS THE WINNER DETERMINED?**

This campaign is a fundraiser. Therefore the pet that can raise the most money wins the prize: \$1.00 = One vote, \$5.00 = Five Votes and so on. The more you vote the bigger our donation will be. As soon as you submit your pet you can start fundraising money, the quicker you submit your pet the more time you have to raise awareness for this fundraiser. This is available to all types of pets: cats, fish, turtles, dogs, or birds.

**Contact us with any questions:** rideruniversitydeca@gmail.com / rideruniversitydeca.weebly.com

Courtesy of DECA

The contest rules for DECA's pet photo contest. The contest will help raise money for DECA to attend the International Career Development Conference.

"We are trying to branch out. We are a smaller organization, but if people are looking for something to do during the pandemic our club is a great way to learn and grow as a person," said Santasieri.

While the pet photo contest will be DECA's only fundraiser this semester, the club plans to host events such as professional development and business analytic workshops.

Voting closes for the pet photo contest closes on March 23, but students are welcome to vote as many times as they would like for their favorite animal until then. For more information about the contest contact rideruniversitydeca@gmail.com or visit rideruniversitydeca.weebly.com.

# Meet the DECA pet photo contest contenders



Courtesy of Kevin Pogroszewski

Senior finance major Kevin Pogroszewski's dog Maximum Sauce Pikul smiles for the pet photo contest.



Courtesy of Sleyker Tarifa

Junior accounting major Sleyker Tarifa submitted a photo of his Pomeranian named Mota playing in the snow for the pet photo contest.



Courtesy of Lauren Sullivan

Mickey the cat poses for a photo submitted by junior finance major Lauren Sullivan.



Courtesy of Samantha Ferreira

Ollie the chocolate Labrador retriever submitted by senior communications major Samantha Ferreira.

# Rider organizations look to continue events in wake of attacks

By Aaliyah Patel

AT Rider, Black History Month is celebrated through a month-long series of events consisting of culturally enriching presentations that highlight the Black community. This year students were given the opportunity to learn about Black culture through deep discussions and history-centered events.

Some of the organizations that hosted events throughout Black History Month include the Nu Eta chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Tau Kappa chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the Black and Hispanic Alliance, the Black Student Union (BSU) and L.O.C.K.S., a hair club.

However, events that were set to take place from Feb. 16 to Feb. 27, were canceled after a Zoom bombing occurred on Feb. 11. The meeting was held by the historically Black sororities, Chi Alpha chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and the Tau Kappa chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Intruders used both verbal and written racist and anti-Semitic rhetoric.

Lacuna Chisolm, a senior psychology major and Student Government Association (SGA) equity and inclusion chair shared the importance of continuing to host these events at a future date.

"In terms of non-Black students, I would want them to be educated at these events and leave with a token for them to use later on after these events. Even when interacting with other Black students, so that everyone can have a safe and comfortable environment on

campus. This would be a chance for them to see what their Black peers endure every day and how they feel here at Rider," Chisolm said.

For future events on Zoom, the Office of Information Technology (OIT) requires that Zoom links for programs are attached directly to the registration of that event.

"It definitely invaded a safe space, especially for black women on campus. For me personally, I think from what I've seen from myself and other students that 50% is trying to heal from the situation and treading lightly and the other 50% is like, 'Those bombers aren't going to get the best of us and we will prevail,'" Chisolm said.

On Feb. 8, in conjunction with the administration, the BSU experienced a milestone in the flag raising that occurred in front of the Moore Library. The rising of the Black Lives Matter flag was significant to the Rider community.

Pamela Pruitt, the executive director of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, shared how the stricter guidelines will ensure safety during future events.

"CDI has been following any protocols by inactivating the annotation feature, requiring registrations, trolling the chat for disruptors and using waiting rooms," Dr. Pruitt said.

These events have allowed the Black community at Rider to express themselves and students are encouraged to look out for the new dates for the canceled events.

# Paranormal investigator shares evidence of ghosts

By Tori Pender

STUDENTS became immersed in the world of paranormal beings at a virtual event titled "Ghosts with Chris Fleming" that took place on Feb. 19.

Fleming is a Chicago native and world-renowned medium, counselor, researcher and paranormal investigator who has almost 50 years of experience. Fleming showed the audience evidence of ghosts he has collected since he was a kid.

Fleming has hosted the shows, "Dead Famous," "Help My House is Haunted" and "Psychic Kids." Also, he was a special guest on the first-ever "Ghost Adventures Live" show at the Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum in West Virginia.

"I don't even like that term," Fleming said, referring to the term ghost hunter. "Because I do so much more than that. I am a paranormal investigator, I am a counselor and I am a researcher in this field working with some of the top minds in our discoveries in what we know."

Fleming continues to make many contributions to the paranormal community. He is the co-creator of the Spirit Box (SB-7) with Gary Galka who is an award-winning paranormal investigator and engineer that created the MEL Meter and RT EVP Detector.

The Spirit Box works by sweeping over radio waves at a rapid speed. The energy that is created allows for a spirit to manipulate the radio waves and produce audible sounds that can be heard by humans which allows spirits to communicate with humans.

Typically, Fleming's college events consist of a presentation and afterward, there is a ghost walk that entails 30 students joining Fleming on a ghost hunt on campus — however, because of COVID-19, that is not possible.

The Zoom presentation shared drawings that Fleming has made of ghosts ever since he was a child growing up in what he believes was a haunted house.

"I became fascinated watching these things whether it was in my bedroom or my parent's room. As they would come through the walls, float around real quickly or sometimes really slow. They would take either a semi-manifestation form or a complete one and they would walk through a wall or they would walk down a hallway and they would disappear. I was sitting there in my brain going, 'How do they do this?'" said Fleming.

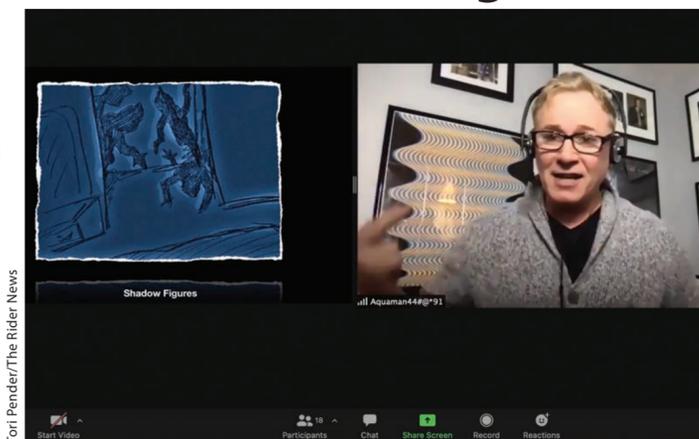
When he was a child, Fleming's mom bought books about the paranormal as well as a Ouija board into the house for Fleming and herself to use.

"The problem is, you are not educated about [that] stuff" when you're that young so we [were] letting whatever wants to come through. We were giving it permission and that was the worst thing we could have done. Because of that, we started having negative things happen in my house," said Fleming.

It is common knowledge in the paranormal community that Ouija boards used by kids who are uneducated on proper use inevitably allow harmful spirits to come through the opened portal.

After Fleming's first experience with something malicious, he persevered and continued to gather evidence and understand the paranormal.

Fleming also presented video and photo evidence from different types of cameras,



Tori Pender/The Rider News

Paranormal investigator Chris Fleming shared his personal paranormal encounters with ghosts during the virtual event.

including 110 Instamatic cameras, full-spectrum cameras, cell phone cameras and infrared cameras.

Full-spectrum cameras cover UV-lights, infrared lights and visible light. This camera can see more of the electromagnetic spectrum than a human can.

Audio evidence was also shown in the Zoom call. Besides audio evidence from the SB-7, electric voice phenomena (EVP) from traditional voice recorders were also played.

After the presentation, some remain skeptical about the existence of ghosts.

"I thought the event was unique, to say the least. Obviously, I know there are limitations due to Covid for what we can do online versus in person. When it comes to stories about ghosts and demons, I'm very skeptical, after all, people will say almost anything to make a quick buck. However, if Chris ever came back to do an in-person live show I would definitely like to see if he can show me something I've never seen before," said junior biology major Daria Brockington-Gray.

Others were very intrigued by the presentation. "The event was super cool. I loved hearing all of Chris's personal experiences. I'm super interested in this kind of stuff so the fact that Rider hosted an event like this was awesome," said freshman business administration major Ragan Yates.

Fleming can be found on Instagram and Facebook @ChrisFlemingOfficial and hosts a monthly podcast called "Spirit Talk" that can be found on iTunes.

Courtesy of Rider University

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2021**

SEE US!  
HEAR US!  
FEEL US!

Rider celebrated Black History Month through a series of events this February. The events were presented by various sororities and organizations.

# Winter Storm Uri wreaks havoc

**T**HIS past week, Texas, along with other states, has experienced the effects of Winter Storm Uri. While the storm itself lasted from approximately Feb. 13 through Feb. 17, the damage caused is still wreaking havoc, from power outages and water shortages to consequences as severe as death.

Throughout the storm, at least 4 million Texans lost power, but according to CNBC, at least 78,000 Texans were still powerless as of Feb. 20. Texas' power emergency was caused largely due in part to the absence of infrastructure for power plants and other energy sources to function adequately under extreme climates — surprisingly, this lack of preparation was legal.

Due to deregulation efforts, energy plant owners in Texas are not required to fork over extra cash to weatherize their equipment, so in situations as severe as this winter storm, consumers were left struggling in the aftermath.

Texas energy providers operate in a competitive free market that not only allows the absences of many preventative mandates, but operates outside of the national grid, which makes it extremely difficult to import extra power in these emergency cases.

The non-profit organization that manages the majority of Texas' energy consumption is called the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT). While ERCOT attempted to predict the effect the cold snap would have on energy services in Texas, it was ultimately unprepared for the storm's severity, leaving Texans in jeopardy.

There is little appeal for these power companies to spend the money to prepare for rare weather extremes, but the absence of certain mandates, like for a "reserve margin" of extra power for example, in these circumstances are ultimately what leave consumers helpless in these situations.

While deregulation of energy has been supported on both sides of the aisle, Texas' dynamic is the most extreme and serves as a reminder that oftentimes, competitive money grabs have drastic consequences.

The water shortage caused by Winter storm Uri has been detrimental to Texans. Due to record low temperatures, many pipes froze up or burst, causing issues for water sanitation and leaving over 14 million people under orders to boil their water to ensure safety. In grocery stores, amenities like water bottles or gallon bottles were virtually nonexistent because of the high demand.

The water shortages have not only affected households. At Memphis International airport, water pressure issues disrupted flights and resulted in cancellations.

Fire departments also struggled with busted pipes and poor water pressure, making it more difficult to get fires under control, many of which were started with space heaters or fireplaces due to such low temperatures.

Hospitals were also affected and in some cases, patients had to be

turned away as employees struggled to even be able to wash their hands, let alone maintain patient care. The breadth of water supply issues is so vast; virtually everything that could have gone wrong did.

Due to low temperatures paired with the aforementioned utility issues in power and water supply, as of this past weekend, at least 58 people have died in areas affected by Winter Storm Uri, spanning as far as Ohio. Some people died due to exposure to extreme temperatures, the lack of power interfering with in-home medical devices and even carbon monoxide poisoning after turning on their cars in an attempt to stay warm.

Due to the severity of this storm and its aftermath, President Joe Biden declared a major disaster in Texas on Feb. 20. In short, this declaration opens up opportunities for federal funding to be put toward relief efforts.

According to CNBC, this declaration provides aid opportunities to people living in 77 of Texas' 254 counties.

Another facet of Texas' storm experience has been the lack of leadership by certain politicians as well as the stark reminder that, even in emergencies, there is a vast difference between the working class and politicians who can flee from harm and responsibility.

U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) received backlash last week for ditching Texas amidst a crisis and heading to Cancun with his family. After being called out online he shifted the blame onto his daughters, saying that they had wanted to take a trip with friends.

The now-resigned mayor of Colorado City, Texas, Tim Boyd received well-deserved criticism after a Facebook post in which he essentially stated that Texas residents were on their own and undeserving of assistance.

The post included phrases like "only the strong will survive and the weak will [perish]" and "no one owes you [or] your family anything; nor is it the local government's responsibility to support you during trying times like this."

The issue with both of these actions is that the government does owe people support during crises. Politicians work for the people, and the entire point of their job is to serve their constituents.

The cold snap that has struck Texas and surrounding states serves as a reminder that climate change is real and occurring, and these bouts of unpredictable weather are something that states and the country in its entirety are going to have to better prepare for in the future.

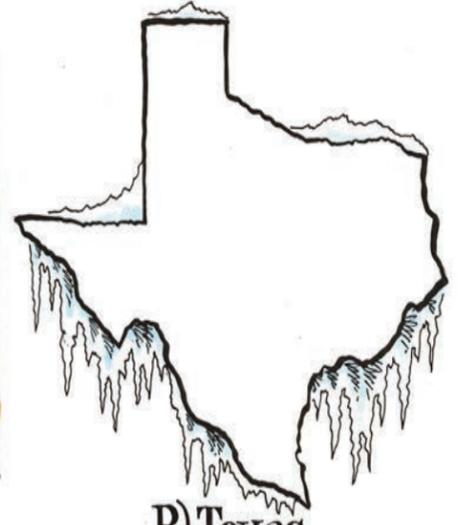
Ultimately, Texas has struggled immensely at the hands of Winter Storm Uri, and the state is still recovering. Politicians in the area need to step up and take responsibility for their state in crisis, and additionally, infrastructure changes need to be made to better prepare for extreme weather as climate change continues to worsen.

Freshman english major  
Kate McCormick

## News Quiz: WHERE ARE WE HOPING TO FIND SIGNS OF LIFE?



A) Mars



B) Texas

Courtesy of Cagle Cartoons

MARGULIES  
© 2014 www.jimmymargulies.com

Winter storm Uri has frozen large parts of the country over the past week.

## THE Rider News

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## FILM FANATICS

## Anywhere there is people, there is power: A Fred Hampton story

**REMEMBER** the day I first turned 21 years old. I was stressing over the fact that I would be finishing my undergrad online, or upset because my dress was not coming in time for my birthday. I cannot quite imagine being 21 years old on the FBI's most wanted list, feeding thousands of children in my neighborhood or trying to free my people from a continuous cycle of oppression, all at the age of 21.

Frederick Allen Hampton was born on Aug. 30, 1948. He was an American activist and revolutionary socialist who became known as the chairman of the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party and deputy chairman of the national Black Panther Party. In this capacity, he founded the rainbow correlation, a prominent multicultural political organization that initially included the Black Panthers, the Young Patriots (American leftist organization of mostly white Southerners from Uptown, Chicago) and the Young Lords (a civil and human rights organization that aimed to fight for neighborhood empowerment and self-determination for Puerto Rico, Latinos, and colonized people.) The Black Panther Party were also in allegiance with Chicago street gangs to help them infight and work toward social change.

The 2021 film “Judas and the Black Messiah” is a film about Fred Hampton’s life and legacy (played by Daniel Kaluuya) from the perspective of an informant, William O’Neal (played by LaKeith Stanfield).

There are many people who may not know the story of Chairman Fred Hampton, there are those who may know his story, but not of the specifics that are directly responsible for his assassination. It was a surprise to many that Hampton was indeed set up by someone on the inside. A common

criminal who stole cars and impersonated police officers. A young man with nothing to lose — until he met FBI agent Roy Mitchell. Like many Black Americans, particularly in the 1960s, nothing struck more fear into a man’s heart than the one of the badge. All FBI Mitchell had to do was offer O’Neal immunity for his past crimes, for the price of Fred Hampton’s life.

O’Neal agreed. He would go on to be an active informant for the FBI until the early 1970s, earning today’s equivalent of over \$200,000, until taking his own life in 1990.

Fred Hampton and the Black Panther Party was top priority for then former Director of the FBI J. Edgar Hoover. The FBI and its non-stop attempts to keep Hampton behind bars failed, which is why they needed a man on the inside.

COINTELPRO (an abbreviation derived from Counter Intelligence Program) was a series of covert and illegal projects conducted by the United States FBI aimed at surveilling, infiltrating, discrediting and disrupting domestic American political organizations. FBI records show COINTELPRO resources targeted groups and individuals the FBI deemed subversive, including feminist organizations, the Communist Party USA, anti-Vietnam War organizers, activists of the civil rights movement (i.e. Martin Luther King Jr., the Nation of Islam, and the Black Panther Party), environmentalist and animal rights organizations, the American Indian Movement (AIM), independence movements (such as Puerto Rican independence groups like the Young Lords) and a variety of organizations that were part of the broader New Left and unrelated groups such as the Ku Klux Klan.

There are not enough words to describe the

lengths Hampton and the Black Panther Party would go to liberate, protect and educate their communities. There are also not enough words to describe the lengths the FBI would have gone to stop that from happening.

Fred Hampton was killed on Dec. 4, 1969, by the Chicago Police and the FBI during a police raid just before sunrise, firing 99 shots as he laid next to his pregnant fiancée Akua Njeri, formerly known as Deborah Johnson.

Hampton was 21.

Given his rather short life, the story of Chairman Hampton was far too vast and complex to limit this review to simply about the striking cinematography by Shaka King or the rhythmic soundtrack featuring artists such as Jay-Z, Nas and the late Nipsey Hussle (to name a few).

I wanted to end this review with a sentiment on how the film made me feel. Of course I was overwhelmed with emotion as I thought about young Black boys and girls whose lives were cut short by the hands of hatred. The loss of Fred Hampton over 50 years ago, and at the young age of 21, reminded me of Ahmaud Arbery (25), Breonna Taylor (26), Trayvon Martin (17) or Tamir Rice (12). Lives cut short before they ever really began.

A line from this film that will live with me forever: “Anywhere there’s people, there’s power.”

Judas and the Black Messiah is now playing in theaters and on HBO Max.

*senior journalism major  
opinion editor  
Qur’an Hansford*

## GREEN CORNER

## What are microplastics? And how they end up on your plate?

**A**s a college student, it is easy to choose the simplest options when it comes to meals and snacks. Pieces of fruit, granola bars or a cup of coffee become daily habits that act as lifelines when hopping between classes. But consider this: you’ve just grabbed an apple from your fridge and you take a bite. It tastes normal to you, but how do you know that your snack is as healthy as you think?

We’ve all heard about the “stuff” that is in food, like genetically modified organisms (GMOs), that are said to be harmful to your body and the environment. However, GMOs are not the only threat. There is another: microplastics.

Microplastics are the result of plastic decomposing in our environment. They are the little pieces, less than 5 millimeters in length, that pollute our oceans and soil.

How does this affect us? One piece may not affect anyone, but in large quantities, the pieces of plastic can damage the stomach and digestive system.

This has been observed in aquatic animals due to toxins from the plastic that sit in their stomach due to plastic’s inability to decompose. As a result, plastic contamination builds up in their system, amplifying its harmful effects.

Microplastics are making their way into our waterways and soil, which end up being consumed by all living things, including humans.

Sion Chan, a campaigner of GreenPeace, says, “When we take a bite of an apple, we are almost certainly consuming microplastics along with it,” according to Greenpeace.org.

The article goes on to describe that, “Apples had one of the highest microplastic counts in fruit, with an average of 195,500 plastic particles per gram.” We are yet to see the lifelong impact of microplastics on humans, but as plastic consumption increases, “so does the need for more research on the impacts of plastic... on human health,” (Smith, Madeleine et al.).

Plastic has impacted our environment in more ways than one, but this doesn’t have to continue.

Sophomore business analytics major and Green Team member Kayelena Brimage said, “It is our job to watch what we put into the environment. We should try substituting plastics for materials like metal, wood and bamboo. When shopping for groceries try bringing your own reusable bags from home. It’s the

small things that really make an impact. Be the change.”

While there is no way to reverse plastic contamination and microplastics penetrating our environment, we can certainly make a difference and stop further contamination with just a few conscious changes in our everyday lives.

Although there is no current concrete evidence that the present level of microplastics will affect human health, there is so much we can do to prevent the further widespread contamination of plastic in our environment.

Rider’s Office of Sustainability joins Clean Ocean Action for a “Beach Sweep” every semester where students travel to a local New Jersey beach and pick up trash and plastic contaminants from the shoreline.

After his first beach sweep, junior Musical Theatre major Andrew Smith said, “Because of what I saw on the beach sweep, I have started to lower my plastic consumption and be more conscious about waste that I can avoid.”

Like Smith, recycling and awareness of your plastic use is a great place to start. Consider adding more reusable items to your lifestyle, skipping the straw and saying no to plastic bags and plastic utensils with your to-go orders. Your impact on the environment will not go unnoticed.

*Eco-Rep  
Ashlyn Whiteside*

WRESTLING

# Broncs get set for MAC Tournament berth

By Mike Ricchione

**T**HIRTY five tickets to the NCAA Tournament will be up for grabs when the wrestling team hosts the Mid-American Conference (MAC) tournament on Feb. 26 and 27 at the CURE Insurance Arena in Trenton.

Given the short season, NCAA Tournament allocations were given to each conference based on five-year averages from 2016-2020. Head Coach John Hangey was not pleased when the MAC's number didn't include the number of qualifiers allocated to the Eastern Wrestling League (EWL) before the two conferences merged.

"I gotta be honest with you, I was disappointed," Hangey stated. "[The EWL] merged with the MAC last year and we brought seven EWL teams and they didn't give us any credit for those qualifiers that we had earned in the past. We only got 35. We have 14 teams for 35 spots. That's not a lot."

Combining MAC and EWL bids, the average would be 47.4 total bids.

Last year in its first MAC tournament, Rider qualified four wrestlers for the NCAA championships, including its first MAC champion in graduate student Jesse Dellavecchia.

Two Broncs fell one spot shy of qualifying last year in redshirt senior Jonathan Tropea and redshirt junior George Walton. Neither of them was selected for an at-large bid.

Walton didn't seem to mind not being selected and wanted to go to the tournament, "the right way."

"I didn't already make the [NCAA] Tournament so I wasn't hoping to get in with [an at-large selection] because I didn't get in already," Walton said about last year. "I didn't do my job so I wasn't hoping for something to put me in if I didn't earn it the right way. This year, I'm looking to get in the correct way and punch my ticket in."

There's not a lot to look at, as Rider only wrestled two conference duals this season, defeating Clarion and George Mason.

Wrestling at 184 pounds, Walton went 2-0 in those duals defeating Clarion's Max Wohlabough and George Mason's Eli Dickens, both by decisions.

Overall, Walton is 4-1 and has won four straight after suffering a season-opening loss to Binghamton's Lou DePrez.

The top three punch their ticket to the NCAA's at 184 pounds from the MAC. There are four MAC



Photo courtesy of Rider Athletics

Redshirt senior **Jesse Dellavecchia** is set to defend his MAC Championship title at the 157-pound weight class.

wrestlers ranked in the NCAA Coaches' Poll, Walton, Cleveland State's DeAndre Nassar, Missouri's Jeremiah Kent and defending MAC champion Northern Illinois' Brit Wilson.

Walton has a win over Wilson defeating him via decision, 7-6, last season on Nov. 17, 2019.

As for Tropea, he went 3-0 in the conference, all via bonus points over George Mason's Josh Jones and Clarion's Cameron Butler and Blake Jackson at 125 pounds.

With Lock Haven's announcement that it was entering the MAC Tournament after being shut down most of the season, Tropea could cross paths with Luke Werner. In last year's tournament, Tropea and Werner battled twice with Werner taking both matches.

The MAC is sending the top four at 125 pounds to nationals.

Dellavecchia, the defending MAC Champ at

157 pounds, will be good to go after sitting out the previous two duals. Dellavecchia went 4-0 in the regular season, all by bonus points.

Missouri's Jarrett Jacques, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's Justin Ruffin and Bloomsburg's Alex Carida are notable competition at that weight

Senior heavyweight Ethan Laird, gaining more momentum as the season goes, has his next big challenge at the MAC Tournament as he'll look to come out on top in a field with Central Michigan's Matt Stencel and Missouri's Zach Elam.

"We have a plan that we've been doing for years and we typically hit that tournament really really well," Hangey said of the team's preparation. "We hit it healthy. We hit it hungry and that's the plan."

After the MAC Tournament is completed, the NCAA championship will take place Mar. 18 to 20 at the Enterprise Center in St. Louis, Missouri.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Daija Moses adapts in unusual senior season



Senior forward **Daija Moses** ended her Alumni Gym career averaging 7.5 points per game and 4.8 rebounds per game.

By **Dylan Manfre**

If there is anybody who can adjust to a new role in a short amount of time, it's senior forward Daija Moses.

Coming to Rider four years ago from Toronto, Ontario, Moses had balanced her academics with her responsibility as a Division I athlete and adjusting to a new culture in America. Although it was difficult for her, she has made it this far with few hiccups.

She navigated her senior campaign on her own.

Playing behind a senior class of last season's pedigree, Moses wished she could change one thing about her last season at Rider.

She wanted someone to share her senior year with.

Moses knew from the time she was a freshman this was going to be her reality when she became a senior. Former guard Jaiden Morris entered Rider with Moses, but Head Coach Lynn Milligan confirmed Morris transferred after the 2017-2018 season.

"I wish I was ordering my cap and gown with someone so we can go on stage together and that type of thing," Moses said with a sigh.

Building relationships on and off the court was important to her because the desire to experience senior basketball remains.

"We [would just have] another voice to be honest," Moses said. "Someone you could relate to in the sense that this is our last year, we gotta do what [we] do. Sometimes when I'm thinking 'last game,' it's not

anyone else's last game."

Despite being the lone senior, she adapted as she does to everything else.

"Being able to change, to be honest," Moses said when asked what the word adapt means to her, "depending on your environment."

When it came to basketball, there is not one player or lineup Moses could not play with. Her versatility is her top asset.

"Her role has changed every year. It really hasn't been an overly consistent role, and that's to her credit," Milligan said. "It's not easy. She's never been pigeonholed to be this person. She's been able to grow and be able to move in different parts and play with different people and different positions and be an offensive threat."

Milligan thought last season backing up forwards Lea Favre and Aubre Johnson was the "perfect role" for the 5-foot-10-inch Moses.

"I think she really took advantage of that and understood the importance of that role," Milligan said. "She was able to play with Lea [Favre], she was able to play with Aubre [Johnson]. This year she plays with [freshman center] Vic [Toomey], she can play with anybody. That's the good thing about Daija, you can put her into the lineup and she's going to find her way."

Moses started the season at power forward, but

later on was swapped for freshman forward Raphaëla Toussaint and found herself in the backup role again. Her role changing so frequently never fazed her because she still gave the same effort.

"It definitely is, like, a mental thing because adapting to different roles is not always the easiest," Moses said. "It's like 'OK you're here, why did I go here? Why am I here now?' So it definitely is a mental thing but I definitely am proud of myself because you just have to adjust and do what you need to do."

For her last game at Alumni Gym, Moses was rewarded with a senior day surprise with a pregame video from her mother and other family members.

Assistant Coach Pam Durkin orchestrated the surprise which left Moses emotional since her family could not make it because of COVID-19 travel restrictions between Canada and the United States. But for every player at Rider, Milligan wants them to have a "remember when" moment, something the players will remember forever.

Moses said her "remember when" was her hitting two late 3-pointers against Niagara on Feb. 14 giving Rider a win in her final game at Alumni Gym.

"First we beat Niagara and that was great, especially being down," Moses said. "It's just the energy and love and support within that time was just something that's unforgettable."



# Sports

INSIDE

## MAC TOURNAMENT PREVIEW

*The wrestling team is gearing up for the MAC wrestling championship.*

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

# Broncs plummet in standings in return



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Sophomore guard Christian Ings was the only player to score double-figures in both games against Quinnipiac.

By Shaun Chornobroff

**B**EFORE it took the floor against Quinnipiac on the road on Feb. 20 and 21, it had been nearly a month since the Rider men's basketball had played a game of basketball.

Like a classic box-office flop, the anticipation did not meet expectations for fans, coaches or players alike, with the Broncs dropping both games against the tenth-placed Bobcats.

The losses put Rider at the bottom of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC), somewhere Head Coach Kevin Baggett isn't happy to be.

"I've never been in last place in anything I've ever done," Baggett said strongly. "Whether I played, coaching, I've never been in last, so it certainly doesn't feel good and I'm certainly not planning on being here very long... I can assure everyone that I might get my a\*\* handed to me now, but I can assure you next year this will not happen. I promise people that, you have my word on that."

### Game 1

Through 30 minutes of basketball, there seemed to be a good chance that Rider could walk away from its first game since Jan. 23 with a victory. But the team faltered down the stretch and ultimately lost 80-64.

"All I know is that you have to compete," Baggett said bluntly. "That's what basketball is about, we don't make excuses, we didn't finish the game the right way."

The two teams were tied at 53 at the 9:30 mark and seemed to be heading toward a competitive finish, but Rider's offense went stagnant at the wrong time. Over the ensuing 6:05 of play, the Bobcats went on a 21-4 run that took the game out of Rider's hands.

As it fell behind on the scoreboard, Rider not only lost a much-needed victory but also its coach.

Baggett's words were not able to be caught on

ESPN+, but even with a mask, the fiery head coach's facial expression properly displayed his emotion. Baggett laid into the referees for not calling a foul on a turnover from sophomore guard Allen Powell, subsequently getting assessed with two technical fouls and an ejection from the game.

The technical fouls resulted in four points off of free throws for Quinnipiac and the Rider deficit went from 11 points to 15 in the blink of an eye.

In classic Baggett fashion, when asked about the ejection postgame, the veteran head coach initially didn't seem to be willing to comment before being brutally honest.

"I don't need to comment on that, it's a blatant foul," Baggett said sternly. "You saw it, just as every viewer who watched it saw it, it's one of those where all three refs should come together, say something and overrule it."

Rider's offense seemed to flow nicely and the team had four players reach double-figures, including junior center Ajiri Ogemuno-Johnson, who was one rebound away from a double-double.

The other three members of the team who reached double-figures were the trio of guards Rider relies on heavily every game. Junior Dwight Murray Jr. led the way with 16 points, five rebounds and three steals, Powell had 10 points and recorded five rebounds, four assists and two steals, to go along with four assists.

And for the first time since Jan. 8, sophomore Christian Ings got into double-figures. The explosive guard scored 12 points, but stuffed the stat sheet, contributing seven rebounds and four assists.

Unfortunately, the exploits of the quartet were not enough to get Rider into the win column.

### Game 2

The men's basketball team embarrassingly dropped its second-consecutive game. From the outset, Rider looked uninterested in a must-win game and the final score reflected that with the, now eighth-placed, Bobcats destroying the Broncs by a score of 93-68.

"I just think that everything that could go wrong did go wrong," a disgruntled Baggett said after the loss. "I don't know, lack of experience, lack of being in this position, we certainly didn't respond the way I hoped today coming off of yesterday's loss."

The gloomy end to the previous game seemed to affect the latter game of the double-header for Rider.

"At about the seven-minute mark of the second half, I thought we had kinda fallen apart, we didn't compete nearly as much today, so it could have been a combination of both."

Much like the previous game, Quinnipiac started with a 9-2 lead and Rider immediately fought back to make the score 9-8 in the early stretch. But that was about it for Rider — the team fell apart and went into the half trailing 55-30.

Quinnipiac came out strong in the second half and saw its lead grow to as many as 38 points before Rider sliced it back down to the final deficit of 25 in garbage time.

Rider's defense was unable to stop Quinnipiac's offense. The Bobcats set season-highs in points, assists and three-pointers made.

"We certainly were very, very poor defensively... We certainly need to go back and address that in practice," Baggett said. "That is something that we spend day-in and day-out with."

The last-place Broncs will look to revive their season on Feb. 26 and 27 when they go on the road to face Saint Peter's.